

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:548
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
IMPORT DUTY ON FOODGRAINS .
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have raised import duty on wheat, rice and fruits, etc. to 80% to discourage import of these items;
- (b) if so, whether the imported foodgrains are likely to be costlier due to imposition of this duty thus depriving the consumers of the benefits of globalisation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a),(b) & (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 548 FOR ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 04-05-2000

(a) The import duty (basic + surcharge) on the following foodgrains and fruits has been increased:-

- (i) Fresh Grapes from 27.5% to 38.5%
- (ii) Apples from 38.5 to 50%
- (iii) Wheat from `free` to 50%
- (iv) Spelt from `nil` to 50%
- (v) Maize (corn) seed from `nil` to 50%
- (vi) Rice in the husk (paddy or rough), from `free` to 80%
- (vii) Husked (brown) rice, from `free` to 80%
- (viii) Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed, from `free` to 70%
- (ix) Broken rice, from `free` to 80%
- (x) Grain sorghum from `free` to 50%
- (xi) Millet from `free` to 50%

While duty was imposed on wheat with effect from 1.12.99, in all the other cases the duty was imposed or increased with effect from 5.4.2000 by the Ministry of Finance.

(b) & (c): The imposition of import duty has made the import of wheat and rice costlier. The import duty on foodgrains has been imposed in view of the excessive stock position of wheat (205 lakh MTs. As against the buffer norm of 116 lakh MTs as on 1st October, 1999) and the comfortable stock position of rice (149.29 lakh MTs as against the buffer norm of 118 lakh MTs as on 1st April, 2000). This has been done to protect domestic producers and in the overall interest of maintaining food security.